GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4915
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2007
AUTHORITY FOR FPI
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some food processing companies in the country do not follow international standards;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any notice to food processing units engaged in packed food items;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up any authority to check the functioning of such companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which such authority is likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) to (f): The food processing companies engaged in packed food items are regulated as per the provision of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 (PFA Act) and rules made there under which is administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. They have to comply with the domestic standards laid down under the PFA Act. The notices are issued from time to time to those companies who do not adhere to the standards and are dealt with the penal provisions the PFA Act. The food processing companies engaged in the packed food items are also expected to follow international standards or standards of importing country in case of export of these items.

The Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 notified by the Government on 24.08.2006, envisages setting up of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of articles of food by companies/food businesses, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare being the nodal Ministry for administration and enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 has initiated action for setting up of the authority.